

**NEW ENGLAND LABORERS'/CRANSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
CONSTRUCTION CAREER ACADEMY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

February 26, 2013

12:00 P.M. Executive Session

Public Session Immediately Following

4 Sharpe Drive

MINUTES

This meeting of the NEL/CPS Construction Career Academy was held on the above date in the conference room and called to order at 12:15 p.m. with the following members present: Chairman Traficante, Dr. Lundsten, Mr. Santangelo, Ms. Oberlander, and Dr. Leone. Absent were Mr. Rampone, Mr. Sabitoni, Mr. Cardi and Mrs. McFarland.

The members convened into executive session pursuant to R.I. State Laws PL 42-46-5(a)(1) Personnel: PL 42-46-5(a)(2) Collective Bargaining and Litigation.

This meeting was called to order; the roll was called. It was noted there was a quorum present. No votes were taken in executive session. A motion to seal the minutes of executive session was made by Mr. Santangelo, seconded by Dr. Leone; all were in favor.

Minutes of Previous Meeting(s) Approved – January 22, 2013.

Moved by Dr. Leone, seconded by Mr. Santangelo; all were in favor.

Public Acknowledgements/Communications – none.

Chairperson's Communications

Chairperson Traficante stated Mr. Curran has been working with The Laborers Media and PR department to create a new recruitment brochure. We are presently editing a draft copy and will have a final copy for the board by the next meeting.

Some areas to distribute these brochures were suggested by Dr. Lundsten. Mr. Pecorelli stated they will also be distributed at our open house night on March 5, 2013 and he is in the process of lining up other places to distribute this brochure. Mr. Curran stated, ideally I would like to mail that brochure to all 8th grade parents in Cranston and would need to get permission to do that and we can talk about that going forward to try and get as much exposure as we can.

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Executive Director's Communications

Update on Focus School Status/Diagnostic Screening and Results of NECAP

Mr. Curran presented a Power Point (attached for the record/on file in the superintendent's office).

Mr. Curran stated- we are a focus school under RIDE's new

classification of schools and as such we have certain goals and standards that we have to meet and one that I am going to share with you in a very brief power point are the results of the most recent NECAP we took in the fall because these results will play a large role in our focus school classification and also our re-chartering next year as a charter school. I shared this with the staff at our faculty meeting about a week ago.

Some markers about the state – there was an increase, a widening of the gap if you will between students with IEP's, special ed students and non-IEP students. This has been going on for five years and that trend continues despite everybody's best effort throughout the district and the state to have that gap reduced. Both at the state and district level the results were not significantly different from the previous year. We get compared, as you know, to our district of Cranston, even though half of our kids are not from Cranston because we are a resident in the town of Cranston. 63% of our students were proficient which means they scored a 3 or a 4 and 87% passed the NECAP which means they had to score a 2, 3 or 4. So, I think we did well. Only 4 students in our entire 11th grade will need remediation because they got a 1. We tested 41 students which is the entire 11th grade. In math, 12% our students were proficient in math, 32% passed the NECAP which means they got a 2, 3, or 4, but 68% in red, got a 1. This is an obvious area of concern as a school and as a district. That 68% represents 24 students so 24 of the 41 got a 1 in math and we have to have a plan now to remediate them and I will talk

about that in a moment. We had one student in math that got a 4 in math for the first time in this school which we are really quite proud of. We gave each student a certificate for their scoring on the NECAP. If they got a 2 they got a bronze, a 3 they got silver, a 4 they got gold. We had 7 students get a 4 in reading and 1 in math. The student that got a 4 in math missed getting the 4 in reading by one question.

In looking at the 2008-2012 data comparison – that is five years of NECAP. On the left side the Construction Career Academy, Cranston High School East, West, and then the state numbers so you can see how we compare. Obviously our numbers are lower than the other three comparisons but you can see that our rate of growth is a little bit better. I guess you could say we have further to go but we're certainly going in the right direction. Over five years our scores, percentage of student proficient have increased by 25% in reading. In math, 8% increase over five years and again comparing ourselves to the other two high schools in the district and to the state. Our rate of increase is greater than the other comparisons but we're still considerably lower than those other comparisons. The student that rated a 1 in math was a student here last year as a sophomore. I don't know if he was here the year before. Mr. Pecorelli stated he was from Warwick previously. Dr. Lundsten suggested – drill back further and look to see if you see a pattern between students coming out of certain buildings because that is something we can work on at the district level.

Mr. Curran continued – if you look at the 8th grade statewide – this group of 11th graders, 25% of them scored a1; this year in the state 40% of the 11th graders scored a “1”. So you can see a drop off there of the number of students who were partially or proficient in the NECAP and the reason is they flat-lined. In Cranston 19% of the 8th graders scored a 1; this year 39% of the 11th graders scored a 1; 5% and then 3% in the reading; not a big difference in the reading.

We are still collecting the data on our 8th grade scores because about half of our students come from outside Cranston we don't always have their NECAP scores available to us so we really have to call the schools, drill down, try to get the state to give them to us so we are still trying to determine what those scores were. What I can tell you that one thing is clear – if a student got a 1 in 8th grade math; they got a 1 in 11th grade math. We found no student, and I doubt that you will, find a student who got a 1 in the 8th grade who also didn't score a 1 in 11th grade. It happens because the test gets incrementally more difficult. Statewide we still have a long way to go to ramp up math instruction K-12 and the NECAP is going away. We have two more years of it and then it will be replaced by the PARCC which from what I hear is more difficult.

Mr. Curran continued – so what are some of the other markers that we have to increase for our graduation rate? Last year we had a 46% graduation rate and I won't go into the details as to why but there were several mitigating factors in that. This year, which was June of

2012, our graduation rate was 61% so again we are going in the right direction. We had the largest increase in the state in graduation rate and we're moving up the ladder there so I would predict that next year we are probably looking at 70%; maybe a little bit higher for our graduation rate. Part of the issue here is we still have AEP comingling in our data because they were here for a number of years and we just separated ourselves in June from AEP. But that means that any student who dropped out last year from AEP is our dropout. So for a couple more years, because they could be still either be in the junior or senior class, it will probably still have some effect on that rating based of AEP dropouts but ultimately that will clean itself up and we will have just a purebred based upon the students in the charter school.

The question was asked – so what you are saying is they graduated from AEP - West or East gets the credit. If they drop out - the Charter School takes the hit? Mr. Curran stated – if they drop out before June of 2012 they are our dropouts. If they graduate after June 2012 we don't get any benefit but we get no detractor either.

The question was asked – in 2011 was that when the formula changed? Response was yes by Mr. Curran; he further stated –it had been higher before that.

Mr. Curran continued - our goals in essence here as a focus school, increase percentage of student proficient in reading and we did by

8%. We wanted to double percentage of students proficient in math and we did, we went from 6% to 12% so we exactly doubled. We wanted to increase our graduation rate which we did by 15%. The only one that is still to be determined is the dropout rate. That doesn't get calculated yet by RIDE and we will be anxiously waiting for that to be determined. I think we may get that information in late May or early June. It should go down for us I just don't think it will go down a lot because of so many other factors.

For comparison reasons these are the goals that RIDE set for themselves. They had 33 goals; they met 1; they nearly met 1; they didn't meet 12 but they did show improvement in them and there were 19 goals just flatly not met. That is their report card based upon NECAP. They had 33 specific goals and they met 1 of the 33. Last year they met 4 of the 33 so they actually decreased in their performance so I think it is good to have their comparison so when we are at the table with them as a focus school and a charter school we have some comparative data to share with them.

All good news for us; we are going in the right direction here as a school. The kids did a really good job. Keep in mind that as a focus school, we only had a month to get them ready for that test in this year and start some committee work that we started with our teachers back in late August. Now we have a whole year under our belt before those current sophomores take the test again in October and we are hoping those numbers show inflation.

Now, let me just talk briefly about the 1's. It is important for you to know that the state is requiring schools and districts to have a progress plan for any student who did not get a 2 on the NECAP in either reading or math or both. So as a district we are working at that right now. I have a meeting at 1:30 today on this topic because RIDE wants us to come up with a progress plan for each student that is very specific about how we are going to get them ready to take the test again as a senior in October so that they can show enough progress to get a high school diploma. So we have twenty-four students who have a 1 in math and 1 in reading and those twenty-four students will be in a plan starting tomorrow here to get them ramped up. We also have to have a summer component to it and we may have to talk to them as well regarding some after-school work to get them ready because we have to do whatever we can as a school to enable them to show progress on the NECAP the next time they take it. The results of the testing done in October of next school year will not come to us until February so we'll have seniors in early February who will show as a 1 again, I guarantee it. I hope not a lot but we will have some. We have to then at that point in time get them prepared to take the test again in the spring of their senior year. It will be a modified version of the NECAP we are told but they have to take it again to have one more chance to at least show enough progress that they would get a graduation diploma.

Mr. Curran also stated – 83% of the special education students in the

state of Rhode Island got a 1 in math. The state does allow other measures to lead to a graduation diploma if it is not NECAP. For example a students' score on the SAT could be used or school scores on advanced placement classes. Well, the kids that are getting 1's are probably not taking the SAT's so those really are mute opportunities and I think it really comes down to the test. I believe we have a lot of work ahead of us.

Mr. Santangelo stated – there are students in AP classes who scored a 1 on the NECAP so that just goes to show you how invalid the test actually is.

Mr. Curran stated you don't know why they got a 1 but they need to get a 2 so they will have to take it again. We are meeting with the parents of the students who got 1's so that we can roll out to them what our plans are to get them ready for the next NECAP testing. Parents, by the way, have to sign the progress plan, it's a three page document, it's populated with all kinds of data about the student going all the way back to their 8th grade NECAP scores; has to be signed by the parent, principal, the guidance counselor, the student and the advisor of the advisory group.

Dr. Lundsten stated – some of that is a local decision and some of that may change so we will need to discuss that form.

Monthly update on the budget – (See handout #1).

Mrs. Corcelli reviewed the current budget with the board members. There is a freeze on all non-personnel expenses.

Mr. Curran stated – we may be faced with a potential deficit. This is a

moving target and as you know each month Mrs. Corcelli brings these reports to us and we have had some unanticipated expenses this year. We try to build those into the budget each year but it sometimes you just can't plan on some of those things. We do have reserve that we can tap into if needed and should that be necessary that will be brought before this board by mid to late May for approval.

Mr. Santangelo asked – Obviously we don't know what is going on with the teachers' contract at this point – the job placement specialist and the charter instructors, are they in for a 3% raise regardless of what happens with the teachers' contract?

Mrs. Corcelli stated – I did a step increase just like all the others in the CTA.

Mr. Curran stated – they wouldn't get it if the teachers don't get it. If it doesn't happen district-wide it's not happening here either.

AEP

Mr. Traficante stated – I have an unofficial report from Mrs. Dzekevich (who is on vacation).

We have 100 GED students under the Vocational Training Program.

The medical office skills just completed a class of 14 students.

Another class will be starting shortly. Our CNA has a new class that started January 7th and there are 25 students in that class.

Phlebotomy ended on February 17th, we had 26 students graduate from that class. New class started on February 20th. Our dental assistant class has 13 students at the present time.

A motion to accept these reports was made by Dr. Lundsten; seconded by Dr. Leone. All were in favor.

Board Members Communications - none

Public Hearing

a. Students (agenda/non-agenda matters) – none.

b. Members of the Public (agenda matters only) – none.

RESOLUTIONS

PERSONNEL

No. 02-01-13 – Resolved, whereas, there may be more qualified individuals who will apply for current positions, and

Whereas, certain positions became available after the teacher selection of July 18, 2012 and more senior teachers may elect to occupy these positions under Article XVI of the Collective Bargaining Agreement, and

Whereas, funding for certain positions is not assured for the 2013-2014 school year, and as a result, more senior teachers could elect to take a current position, and

Whereas, positions occupied by retirees must be posted each year, and

Whereas, there may be changes in student distribution, and as a result, more senior teachers may take a current position, and

Whereas, positions must now be made available for more senior teachers who are scheduled to return from leave, and

Whereas, because of these concerns, and in accordance with Title 16 of the General Laws of the State of Rhode Island, the Executive Director has recommended that the employment of certain teachers be terminated at the end of the 2012-2013 school year, and

Whereas, there are more qualified individuals available to better meet the needs of the district and

Whereas, the Executive Director has sent prior notice to said teachers informing them of the specific reasons for their termination, and

Whereas, the Board of Directors has provided said teachers with the opportunity to be heard in Executive Session regarding their termination

Be it RESOLVED that said teachers be terminated at the close of the school year under provisions of Title 16 of the General Laws of the State of Rhode Island, and

Be it further RESOLVED that the Executive Director notify those

teachers of the Board's action to terminate their employment.

A motion to approve this resolution was made by Dr. Leone; seconded by Dr. Lundsten. All were in favor.

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CONFERENCE(S)

No. 02-02-13 – Resolved, that at the recommendation of the Executive Director, the following conference be authorized:

1. Gayle Dzekevich, Director/AEP to travel to New Orleans to attend the COABE Conference (Commission on Adult Basic Education) from March 24, 2013 to March 28, 2013 at no cost the NEL/CPS Construction Career Academy or to Cranston Public Schools. Please see attached conference form.

A motion to approve this resolution was made by Dr. Leone; seconded by Dr. Lundsten. All were in favor.

BUSINESS

No. 02-03-13 – Resolved, at the recommendation of the Executive Director that the Board of Directors accept the preliminary proposed budget for the school year beginning July 1, 2013.

Moved by Dr. Leone; seconded by Dr. Lundsten; discusson.

Ms. Corcelli reviewed the budget for school fiscal year 2013-2014 and explained the revenue and expenditures to the board members. The

2% salary increase will be modified. Large fluxuations are due to the decrease in AEP. We will now be experiencing 60% additional costs in busing. GED testing – must be computerized that is why that has increased. This is a work in progress because there are a few areas we can't be sure of right now. But overall it is optimistically structured budget according to Chairman Traficante.

All were in favor.

Public Hearings on Non-Agenda Items – none.

Announcement of Future Meetings – April 9, 2013.

Adjournment – A motion to adjourn was made by Dr. Leone; seconded by Mr. Rampone. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael A. Traficante, Chairperson

 

PROPOSED	OPERATING	BUDGET	2013	-
2014	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	PROPOSED	

REVENUE	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	VARIANCE
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STATE AID	1,649,333	1,255,888	1,226,472	-2.34%
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CRANSTON CITY AID	839,536	689,316	752,046	9.10%
OD REGULAR EDUCATION	485,153	603,500	657,000	8.86%
OD SPECIAL EDUCATION	79,675	80,000	80,000	0.00%
ADULT ED REVENUE	156,496	120,000	120,000	0.00%
CONTRIBUTION RESERVE/OPEB	0	0	30,000	0.00%
REIMBURSED EXPENSES	105,739	105,739	105,739	0.00%
TOTAL REVENUES	3,315,932	2,854,443	2,971,257	4.09%

ACTUAL ACTUAL PROPOSED

EXPENDITURES	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	VARIANCE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	85,462	101,000	103,020	2.00%
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL	2,271	87,411	89,159	2.00%
RECR/ASST TO EXEC DIR	40,999	40,000	40,000	0.00%
PROGRAM COORDINATOR	21,952	0	0	0.00%
FISCAL MANAGER	60,769	60,000	61,200	2.00%
JOB PLACEMENT SPECIALIST	73,710	73,900	76,117	3.00%
SCIENCE	132,379	110,969	117,984	6.32%
MATH	160,429	183,718	193,359	5.25%
SOC STUDIES	113,540	130,382	136,789	4.91%
NURSE	30,789	0	0	0.00%
ENGLISH	157,067	140,096	176,462	25.96%
ART	48,886	41,650	55,447	33.13%
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	110,894	102,688	86,509	-15.76%
TECHNOLOGY	55,446	75,698	77,998	3.04%
REIMBURSED TRANS/GUID	88,396	88,396	88,396	0.00%
ADULT ED INSTRUCTORS AM/PM	75,036	53,200	40,000	-24.81%

PORTFOLIO PREP COORDINATOR	35,000	26,250	30,000	14.29%
PROGRAM COORDINATOR	40,000	0	0	0.00%
JOB PLACEMENT SPECIALIST	22,977	0	0	0.00%
VIRTUAL LEARNING FACILITATOR	28,899	2,890	0	-100.00%
TEACHER SUBSTITUTES	17,755	18,000	15,000	-16.67%
CHARTER INSTRUCTORS	266,905	235,136	242,190	3.00%
SECRETARY	33,936	33,936	36,836	8.55%
CUSTODIANS	56,709	33,176	47,909	44.41%
BENEFITS/PAYROLL TAXES	418,234	424,774	453,802	6.83%
Reimbur Trans/Guid Bene	17,343	17,343	17,343	0.00%
RETIREE HEALTH BENEFITS	3,000	3,000	4,000	33.33%
EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM	160	160	160	0.00%
RENT	292,605	219,454	292,604	33.33%
PURCHASED SERVICES - UBIO	34,851	33,750	40,000	18.52%
PURCHASED SERVICES	21,849	29,432	26,100	-11.32%
FIELD TRIPS	1,916	3,000	1,500	-50.00%
VIRTUAL LEARNING	0	1,500	1,500	0.00%
UTILITIES: ELECTRICITY	40,465	31,696	45,000	41.97%
HEAT	12,188	9,573	14,000	46.24%
TELEPHONE	7,238	5,700	8,000	40.35%
PROP & SEWER TAXES	63,068	49,659	80,428	63.44%
INS: PROPERTY	4,652	3,600	4,000	11.11%
E & O	5,050	5,050	5,555	10.00%
WORKERS COMPENSATION	7,314	7,500	8,250	10.00%
UNEMPLOY COMPENSATION	7,924	15,000	2,000	-86.67%
LEGAL	6,770	6,000	6,000	0.00%

ANNUAL AUDIT	1,000	10,000	5,000	-50.00%
SPECIAL			ED	SERVICES
REIMBURSEMENT	79,675	80,000	80,000	0.00%
REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE	366	1,125	1,500	33.33%
SNOW REMOVAL	0	1,875	2,000	6.67%
FEES & DUES (INTERSCHOLASTIC)	1,789	1,789	2,000	11.79%
SPECIAL PROGRAMS	19,341	30,000	20,000	-33.33%
STUDENT ACTIVITY STIPENDS	14,535	15,000	15,950	6.33%
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	5,300	13,000	11,000	-15.38%
CLASSROOM SUPPLIES	7,161	7,500	7,500	0.00%
P.E. SUPPLIES	1,092	825	640	-22.42%
ADULT ED SUPPLIES & GED Testing	17,940	13,500	10,000	-25.93%
CHARTER OFFICE SUPPLIES	6,267	7,800	8,200	5.13%
CUSTODIAL SUPPLIES	782	600	800	33.33%
EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE	1,446	1,500	1,800	20.00%
CAPITAL		OUTLAY	(GED	Tech
Configuration)	3,867	22,500	35,000	55.56%
WEBSITE UPGRADES	0	250	250	0.00%
CLASSROOM IMPROVEMENTS	19,440	20,000	15,000	-25.00%
ASSET INVENTORY PROTECTION	0	250	0	-100.00%
CONTRIBUTION TO RESERVE	79,928	37,063	30,000	-19.06%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	2,964,762	2,769,264	2,971,257	7.29%
BUDGET VARIANCE	351,170	85,179	0	